Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI)

- Expansion of leadership and civic engagement to capitalize on innovative strategies
- Moving from vision to implementation
- Asset identification and weaving
- Building Block Strategies:
  1. Leadership
  2. Economy
  3. Placemaking
- Building long-term, sustainable capacity and planning
- Community empowerment to promote quality of life and place
Interfacing Initiatives

Community Readiness Initiative (CRI):

- High impact evaluation process to foster community planning for positive, productive growth
- Assessment of leadership alignment with objective data-driven analysis
- Assessment of community alignment with objective data-driven analysis
- Determination of Community Readiness
- Establish community and economic development policy to build successful communities of choice for people and business
Program Overview
Presentation Overview

1. What is the Hometown Collaboration Initiative?
2. Sponsors & Partners
3. Eligible communities
4. Three phases of the Hometown Collaboration Initiative
5. Timeline of activities
6. Benefit to your community
7. Review of the HCI application process
1. What is HCI?

HCI is an effort available to Indiana communities that are committed to building on their existing assets. It encompasses efforts to...

1. Grow the leadership pipeline and expand the number of people involved in community improvement efforts.

2. Embrace development strategies that link to the economic strengths of a community.

3. Pursue placemaking activities that build on the community’s built and natural resources.
2. Sponsors & Partners

Sponsors

The Indiana Office of Community Rural Affairs (OCRA)

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Partners

Purdue University
Purdue Center for Regional Development
Purdue University Extension

Ball State University
Building Better Communities Department
College of Architecture and Planning – Urban Design
3. Eligible Communities

- Has a population of 25,000 or less
  (Can include cities, towns or counties that meet the population size requirement)

- Willing to invest a modest amount of financial resources into the HCI effort ($5,000)
  (May come from any combination of public, private and/or nonprofit sources and can be reinvested in your community)
4. Three Phase Process of HCI

1. Foundation

2. Building Blocks

3. Capstone

Planning for Our Future

- Developing Our Hometown Leadership Skills
- Strengthening Our Hometown Economy
- Placemaking with Our Hometown’s Natural and Built Resources

Building Our Team
The Foundation: Building our Team
The HCI Team Structure

- Community Coach
- Community
  - Coordinating Team (12-15)
  - Core Team (3-5)
The Coordinating Team

- Made of 12-15 local people. More individuals may be added along the way.
- Manages all aspects of the local HCI.
- Representative of the diversity within the community.
Other Key Components

The local coordinating team can establish a Core Team (three to five people) to handle detailed logistics.

Engaging the larger community at various times will be essential.

A coach will work with each HCI community to guide, support and challenge the team’s activities.
Ideal HCI Team Members

- Open to new approaches for strengthening the community
- Willing to spend the time to study key information and seek the input from local residents & groups
- Ready to take action based on facts collected and local input
- Willing to devote the time and energy needed to guide HCI through all three phases
Topics Covered with the Coordinating Team

- Reviewing roles and responsibilities
- Studying data on your community
- Reviewing existing community strategic plans
- Discovering your local assets
- Securing information from residents (surveys)
- Preparing for a community-wide forum
- Synthesizing the data and inputs to pick a building block
The Building Blocks
The Three HCI Building Blocks

Community selects one of the building blocks to pursue

- Leadership
- Economy
- Placemaking
### Building Block Options

#### Leadership

Approximately 18 hours of leadership training targeted to people who are interested in taking a more active role in the community.

#### Economy

- Business Retention and Expansion Program
- Building an Entrepreneurial Friendly Community
- Youth Entrepreneurship Program

#### Placemaking

- Arts, culture and historic preservation in building vibrant communities
- Improving downtown or other public spaces
- Building a local foods system
Capstone: Planning for our Future
Capstone Activities

- Coordinating Team will develop a Pathfinder Project.
- Project should be a logical next step in your HCI effort.
- Community input on Pathfinder Project will be important.
- Plans on carrying out the project will be submitted to OCRA.
- Approved project plans will receive seed funding.
## 5. Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month of October</td>
<td>OCRA Regional Meetings – Hometown Collaboration Initiative announced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Webinar on the new program; Questions from interested communities addressed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Completed application due to OCRA (by 5 pm EST).</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Semi-finalists announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15-19th</td>
<td>Site visits held by State Coordinating Team representatives. Community Forum organized by local HCI coordinating team.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early-Mid January 2015</td>
<td>Selected communities announced by Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann.</td>
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6. Benefits to Your Community

- Training and technical assistance from state agency and university professionals
- Access to a well-trained community coach
- High quality data prepared on your community or county
- Top-notch “Building Block” programs to address priority needs
- Seed funding for your Pathfinder Project
- More people caring and involved in the community
7. Review of the Application Process

- Review the application form
- Important things to keep in mind
- Who should you contact for responses to your questions?
How applications will be scored

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Maximum Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1: Description of your community</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q2: Discussion of major benefits of being part of the HCI program</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q3: Discussion of challenges &amp; obstacles and how community will</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>address them</td>
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<td>Q4: Description of how HCI involvement will contribute to a strategic plan</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q5: Discussion of building block your community might implement</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q6: Diversity, depth and commitment of the proposed HCI Coordinating Team (includes information gathered from the site visit)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Quality and Completeness of Proposal</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>150</td>
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Thank You